

Regional Approach to PCB TMDLs in the Tidal Potomac River

Public Information Meetings

6/02/06: MWCOG, Washington, DC

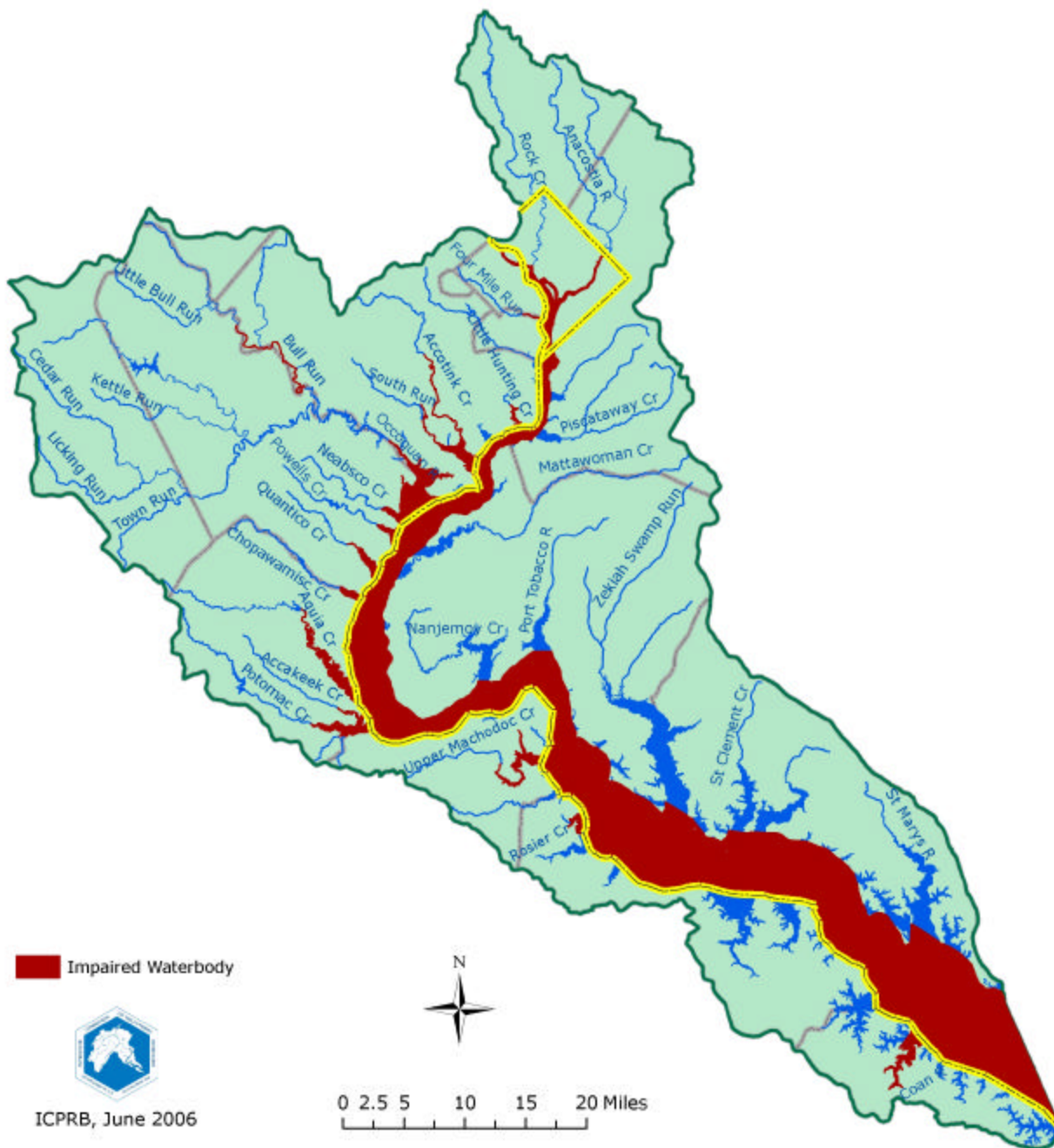
6/22/06: Occoquan Town Hall, Occoquan, VA

6/29/06: Charles County Public Library, La Plata, MD

Plan for the evening

1. Brief overview of the PCB TMDL
2. Poster sessions to explain the TMDL process
 - a) What are PCBs
 - b) Standards, Fish Advisories, & Impaired Waters
 - c) TMDL Process
3. Final Q & A session

**DC, MD, and VA
each have listed
portions of the
tidal Potomac as
impaired due to
high PCBs in fish.**



TMDL development problem

1. Each jurisdiction required to conduct a study to determine the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of PCBs that can go into the water without violating water quality standards or exceeding safe consumption limits in fish.
2. DC consent decree requires TMDL by Sept. 2007, but MD and VA TMDLs not required till later.
3. Because contaminated waters are in close proximity, likely that independent TMDL efforts would be confusing to public.

A Regional Solution

- Jurisdictions agree to share data collection and model development, as well as a stakeholder involvement process, for cost effectiveness and stakeholder acceptance.
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) acts as coordinator and technical resource for joint effort.
- A contractor, LTI, provides model development with funding provided by the EPA.
- Financial support from EPA, states.
- MD and VA agree to aim for DC's due date.

Approach

1. A steering committee formed to coordinate and guide efforts: DC, MD, VA, EPA, ICPRB, MWWCOG, LTI
2. Collect historical data / develop input loading estimates from major source categories.
3. Collect additional data (quickly) to fill in knowledge gaps for model.
4. Establish process to keep stakeholders in all jurisdictions involved / informed throughout TMDL development.
5. Build model for PCB fate and transport.
6. Run model to determine by how much PCBs must be reduced, and allocate those reductions to sources.

TMDL Development Timeline

09/07 – PCB TMDL for DC due to EPA

Summer /07 – Draft TMDL to stakeholders for review

03/07 – Draft TMDL to state agencies for internal review

09/06 – Finish PCB Model Calibration/Validation and Sensitivity Analyses

06/06 – First round of public information meetings

12/05 – Finish Hydrodynamic/Salinity Model Calibration/Validation and Sensitivity Analyses

Fall/05 - Technical Advisory Committee begins qtrly meetings

9/05 – LTI develops modeling options

04/05 to 05/06 – new samples collected to better characterize sources

TMDL Development Team / Stakeholder involvement

STEERING COMMITTEE

MDE, DC DOH, VDEQ, MWCOCG, ICPRB, EPA, LTI

MDE, DOH, VDEQ: regulatory role, decision-making on process

EPA: contributing expertise, \$

ICPRB: coordination, staff support, contract mgmt for monitoring, develop model input data, develop and run TMDL scenarios, write draft TMDL

MWCOCG: contributing expertise and regional perspective

LTI: developing PCB model, contributing expertise

TMDL Development Team / Stakeholder involvement

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP: Institutional stakeholders (likely to be affected by TMDL decisions, civic, conservation and business groups). Individuals/organizations may decide to just be on e-mail list, or keep track via project website.

ROLES: Receive briefings from, and provide feedback to, experts on model / data / policy as these topics evolve.

MEETINGS: Quarterly, during business hours

LOCATION: Geography makes this a challenge. MWCOC?

TMDL Development Team / Stakeholder involvement

SPECIAL PURPOSE WORKGROUPS

Topic oriented, membership from TAC, meeting schedule would vary as issue requires. Members may include stakeholders with expertise and other contribution to topic.

Example workgroups:

- Monitoring
- Loading estimate issues
- Modeling
- Implementation